

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00848 300026Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /079 W

-----300030Z 070848 /15

R 291016Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8590

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0848

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CT CF SF IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI CONTACTS WITH CONGOLESE & SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS

1. EMPEROR BOKASSA'S ISRAELI ADVISOR YOEL BARKAN CALLED ON ME APRIL 27 TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF US-CONGOLESE RELATIONS. BARKAN SAID HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN CONTACTED BY A FRENCH FRIEND OF PRESIDENT YHOMBI OPANGO WITH A REQUEST THAT BARKAN COME TO BRAZZAVILLE FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH YHOMBI. BARKAN DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WAS BEING SUMMONED TO DISCUSS CONGO-ISRAEL RELATIONS OR CONGO-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONS. BARKAN SAID HIS ROLE AS A GO-BETWEEN FOR THE CAE IN SOUTH AFRICA WAS WELL KNOWN TO THE CONGOLESE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO US RELATIONS WITH THE CONGO I SAID I WAS NOT FULLY INFORMED. I WAS AWARE OF OVERTURES BY THE CONGOLESE AND THOUGHT A RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WAS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION GIVEN PRESIDENT CARTER'S EXPRESSED INTEREST IN DEVELOPING TIES WITH AS BROAD A SPECTRUM OF NATIONS AS POSSIBLE. THE INITIATIVE WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE TO COME FROM THE CONGOLESE (COMMENT: I WOULD WELCOME INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF PLAY OF OUR
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DIALOGUE WITH THE CONGOLESE, AS THIS IS A SUBJECT OF DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE INTEREST TO THE CAE.)

3. BARKAN ALSO MENTIONED A TRIP WHICH HE WOULD SHORTLY BE MAKING TO SOUTH AFRICA TO PURSUE A NUMBER OF AID PROJECTS FOR THE CAE. HIGH ON HIS AGENDA WAS THE BANGUI HOTEL. HE SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT INTERCONTINENTAL WOULD ACCEPT A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT WITHIN THE

NEXT SIX WEEKS AND THAT CONSTRUCTION WORK WOULD RESUME SHORTLY THEREAFTER. BARKAN SAID HE WAS ALSO PROMOTING A 25-MILLION-DOLLAR (200,000 TON CAPACITY) CEMENT PLANT IN BANGUI. HE SAID THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAD DRAWN UP A FEASIBILITY REPORT AND WERE NOW SEEKING FINANCING. HE THOUGHT KAISER MIGHT BE INTERESTED AS WELL AS SOUTH AFRICAN BANKS. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT ABLE TO JUDGE REAL POSSIBILITY OF EXTENSION OF SOUTH AFRICAN ROLE HERE. BARKAN RADIATES OPTIMISM WHICH IS NOW ALWAYS JUSTIFIED.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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